

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL: FRG
CONTRIBUTION

REF: STATE 10737, 134207

1. IT WILL BE APPARENT FROM STATE 134207 THAT PROSPECTS
OF GETTING FULL FUNDING LEVEL OF \$50 MILLION REQUESTED
FOR RFE/RL IN FY 1974 NOT BRIGHT IN CONGRESS. HOUSE HAS
ALREADY PASSED APPROPRIATION OF \$45 MILLION AND SENATE
UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE ON THIS.

2. RFE/RL IN NORMAL YEAR MIGHT HOPE TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS
AT THIS LEVEL BY POSTPONING PENSION FUND PAYMENTS, SALARY
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INCREASES, ETC. HOWEVER, SHARP RISE IN DOLLAR COST OF DM,

IN WHICH ROUGHLY 65 OF THEIR EXPENDITURES MET, RULES OUT THIS POSSIBILITY CAUSING \$45 MILLION LEVEL TO EQUAL A 20 RATHER THAN A 10 CUT IN FUNDS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT OPERATIONS. SUBSTANTIAL CUTS NOW BEING PLANNED WHICH WILL AFFECT, AMONG OTHERS, GERMAN PERSONNEL HIRED BY RADIOS, BOTH THROUGH SALARY REDUCTION AND RIF.

3. DEPARTMENT HOPES THEREFORE THAT FRG WILL BE ABLE TO CONSULT JOINTLY WITH BRITISH AND SUPPORT SERIOUS EFFORT BY EUROPEAN STATES TO RAISE \$4 MILLION NEEDED TO HELP FILL EXPECTED FY 1974 GAP. STATE 134207 HAS INSTRUCTED EMBASSY

LONDON TO PROPOSE THIS.

4. ONE TYPE OF FRG CONTRIBUTION WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH SUPPORT OF RESEARCH BECAUSE OF ITS POSSIBLE POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE WOULD BE ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF PAYMENTS BY RADIOS INTO GERMAN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THOSE RFE/RL PERSONNEL COVERED BY IT. SUCH MOVE COULD BE SEEN AS PROVIDING INSURANCE FOR GERMAN CITIZENS OR COVERED RESIDENTS. TOTAL RFE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION INTO FUND IS \$450,000 WHILE RL CONTRIBUTES \$235,000 AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD, UNLESS IT BELIEVES THIS APPROACH UNLIKELY BE HELPFUL, DISCUSS FOREGOING POINTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE ADDING TO THE PRESENTATION WHATEVER INFORMATION ABOUT PROSPECT OF UK APPROACH TO FRG LONDON CAN CONVEY IN RESPONSE TO STATE 134207. ROGER

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